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U.S. Immigration and
Naturalization Service

The Immigration Border
Patrol

[Washington]

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THE IMMIGRATION BORDER PATROL

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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THE IMMIGRATION BORDER PATROL

Its Origin, Activities, Accomplishments

Organization & Personnel

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration & Naturalization Service • Washington, D. C.

Department of Justice

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THE IMMIGRATION BORDER PATROL

Purpose

The Immigration Border Patrol is a branch of the Immigration and Naturalization Service operating under the United States Department of Justice. Its primary function is to detect and prevent the smuggling and unlawful entry of aliens into the United States, and to apprehend persons guilty of such violations. This force also cooperates with other law-enforcement agencies.

Origin

As organized at present, the Immigration Border Patrol was established in June 1924. In the appropriations act approved May 28, 1924, Congress authorized a land border patrol under what was then known as the Bureau of Immigration in the Department of Labor. Prompted by the unrestricted alien smuggling going on by water into Florida and the Gulf States, Congress extended the scope of the new organization's activities in the appropriations act of the following year, authorizing the expenditure of funds for both a land border and coast patrol.

A serious need for an immigration patrol force had existed for a number of years before the present organization was established. As far back as 1904, mounted inspectors patrolled the Mexican border in an effort to check the smuggling of Chinese into the United States. This force of officers, later known as mounted watchmen and eventually as mounted guards, never numbered over 75 men. Successive restrictive immigration laws increased the illicit traffic of aliens across the borders, and by 1924 it

became imperative that a strong, well-equipped, and well-trained border patrol force be established. As a result of the President's regrouping of Government agencies the Border Patrol, along with the rest of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, was transferred to the Department of Justice in June 1940.

Authority

Immigration patrol inspectors derive their principal authority from the Act of Congress approved February 27, 1925. This Act empowers any employee of the Immigration and Naturalization Service properly authorized to do so under regulations prescribed by the Commissioner, with the approval of the Attorney General, to arrest without warrant any alien who, in his presence or view, is entering or attempting to enter the United States in violation of any law regulating the immigration of aliens. It also empowers such an employee to board and search for aliens, without warrant, any vessel within the territorial waters of the United States, or any railway car, conveyance, or vehicle in which he believes aliens are being brought into the United States; also to execute any warrant or other process issued by any officer, under any law regulating the immigration, exclusion, or expulsion of aliens.

The expression "entering the United States" is construed to mean that an alien is engaged in the act of entering until he reaches his destination.

All immigration patrol inspectors are also appointed as immigrant inspectors (without additional compensation). This empowers them, when the necessity arises, to conduct inspection work at regular ports of entry, sit as members of boards of special inquiry, and conduct hearings in deportation cases. An important authority derived through their appointment as immigrant inspectors is the power to administer oaths, and to take and consider evidence relating to the right of any alien to enter, reenter, pass through, or reside in the United States.

Organization

The Border Patrol is spread over 10 major patrol districts—6 on the Canadian border, 3 on the Mexican border, and 1 covering the southeastern section of the country, including the Florida and the Gulf coasts. Altogether, more than 8,000 miles of coast and land boundary are patrolled. Each of the 10 districts is under the general supervision of a district director of Immigration and Naturalization, and under the direct supervision of a district supervisor of Border Patrol if the area of the district, the physical

characteristics, and the patrol problems warrant. The major districts are divided into 20 subdistricts, each operating under the direction of a chief patrol inspector. There are from 6 to 20 patrol stations in each subdistrict. In charge of these stations are senior patrol inspectors.

Nature of Duties

The following summarizes briefly the principal methods used by the Border Patrol in preventing the smuggling and the illegal entry of aliens into the United States, and in apprehending those who have succeeded in so entering.

1. Watching, by day and night, points on the border known to be used by smugglers and aliens who attempt to enter unlawfully. This is done from places of concealment; also from automobiles, watercraft, by patrol on foot, or from radio-equipped observation towers.

2. "Sign cutting" in open country, i. e., searching for evidence of illegal crossings of the boundary, and tracking down those who have crossed. This work is performed on horseback, afoot, or in automobiles, depending on the nature of the terrain. Patrol officers occasionally are obliged to follow the tracks of a group of aliens for several days before overtaking them.

3. Inspecting highway and railroad traffic on routes of egress from border areas, in search of smugglers and illegal entrants; interrogating persons on such routes suspected of having entered unlawfully. In looking for alien stowaways, patrol inspectors search vehicles, railroad trains, and watercraft entering the United States at points other than those covered by immigrant inspectors.

The duties of a border patrolman also include conducting investigations and gathering evidence for use in deportation proceedings and in the prosecution of cases.

As a matter of general routine, patrol inspectors perform duty 8 hours daily, with 1½ days off weekly. The nature of the work, however, makes it impossible to maintain strictly routine patrols and in the majority of districts the hours of duty are extremely irregular. Emergencies constantly arise which keep patrol officers on duty for extended periods of time. Since the force is small for the task it has to perform, it is kept in as highly mobile a state as possible. Patrol officers are subject to call 24 hours a day and, to meet emergencies or unusual conditions in other parts of their districts, are sometimes detailed away from their official stations for weeks at a time. Changing conditions in the various districts often require the transfer of

personnel from one district to another. Persons accepting appointments on the Border Patrol force do so with the understanding that they may be transferred to any part of the United States at any time.

Strength and Equipment

The authorized personnel of the Border Patrol consists of 1,188 patrol inspectors, 1 chief supervisor, 3 assistant chief supervisors, 1 assistant radio engineer, 7 district supervisors, 19 chief patrol inspectors, 14 assistant chief patrol inspectors, 5 district patrol investigators, 256 senior patrol inspectors, 1 director of training school, 1 instructor of Spanish, 1 instructor of physical education and firearms, 9 radio electricians, 31 clerk radio operators, 19 motor mechanics, 15 assistant motor mechanics, 38 clerks, 19 laborers and 3 autogiro pilots.

Transportation facilities consist of 500 automobiles, 50 trucks, 26 saddle horses, 14 patrol boats, 16 outboard motorcraft of various types, and 3 autogiros. Most of the patrol cars are now equipped with radio receivers and in a short time such equipment will be installed in all patrol cars. Many of them carry two-way radios. Twelve observation towers have been erected at strategic points along the Mexican border, each equipped with two-way radios. In addition, the Border Patrol operates 22 fixed radio transmitters.

Radio equipment has not only increased the effectiveness of the Immigration Border Patrol in controlling illegal entries over the border, but it has promoted cooperation and coordination between this organization and other law-enforcement agencies, with extremely effective results.

Accomplishments

In the 16½ years ended January 1, 1941, the Border Patrol apprehended 306,806 persons for violation of immigration and other laws. Of this number, 3,883 were smugglers of aliens, 21,087 were violators of State laws and Federal laws other than the immigration laws, and the remainder were immigration law violators.

During this period patrol officers effected the seizure of 6,001 automobiles, 2,015 boats and other conveyances, and 40 aircraft. The estimated value of these seizures, together with property seized as smuggled contraband, was \$5,910,419.

The apprehensions for the fiscal year 1940 numbered 11,092. Of the 10,618 aliens and alien smugglers arrested, 1,195 had been previously deported and 1,170 had criminal records.

During this 16½-year period patrol officers patrolled 109,109,218 miles,

of which 101,295,265 were patrolled by motor, 1,376,288 by railroad, 505,638 by horse, 333,675 by boat, 16,485 by aircraft, and 5,580,056 on foot.

Cooperation

Patrol inspectors not only cooperate with other law-enforcement agencies—Federal, State and local—by assisting where practicable in the apprehension of criminals and fugitives from justice in general, but also endeavor to be of service to the general public. The work of patrol officers brings them in frequent contact with persons in distress. In rendering assistance when needed, patrol inspectors have saved considerable life and property. While this is not a prescribed function of the Immigration Border Patrol, the nature of the work and humanitarian principles impose such duties. In cooperation with the American Red Cross, all officers are given first-aid training; patrol units made up of inspectors who have passed the advanced first-aid course are designated by the Red Cross as mobile emergency first-aid units. One hundred percent of the force is qualified to give first-aid.

Since the success of the Immigration Border Patrol is greatly dependent on the cooperation and assistance of the public, officers strive diligently to cultivate the friendship of the law-abiding residents of the various border districts. Such contacts constitute a prolific source of valuable information; thousands of citizens are at all times willing to communicate their observations to Border Patrol officers.

SELECTION OF APPOINTEES

ALL positions in the Immigration Border Patrol are subject to civil service rules and regulations, and all appointees are selected from lists of eligible candidates who have met the physical and experience requirements and who have passed the open competitive written examination conducted by the United States Civil Service Commission. All other positions in the Border Patrol (clerks, mechanics, laborers, etc.) are filled from general registers maintained by the Civil Service Commission.

Applicants for the position of border patrolman must have the following qualifications:

1. They must be citizens of the United States.
2. They must show that they have recently been engaged in activities tending to fit them for arduous outdoor work.

3. They must have reached their twenty-first birthday and must not have passed their thirty-fifth birthday.

Physical Requirements

Applicants must measure at least 68 inches in height without boots or shoes, and weigh at least 145 pounds. They must be well-proportioned as to height and weight, of active type with good muscular development, and in good health and sound physical condition. Any disease or physical defect, structural or functional, which would interfere with a high degree of physical activity disqualifies the applicant.

VISION. Vision must be at least 20/30 (Snellen) in each eye, without glasses. Binocular vision must be at least 20/20 (Snellen), without glasses. Both eyes must be free from chronic inflammation and functional abnormalities. Keen color perception (color plate test) is required.

TEETH. Applicants must have at least 20 natural uncrowned teeth without apical abscesses, including two opposing molars in each jaw on both sides.

The above age and physical requirements are never waived.

Oral and Medical Examinations

Applicants who have passed the written civil service examination and whose names are within possible reach on the eligible register are required to present themselves before examining boards for an oral interview and a thorough medical examination. Each examining board is composed of three members: a representative of the Civil Service Commission, one from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and a Federal medical officer.

The examining boards convene at Federal hospitals, where laboratory facilities are available. Candidates who qualify for the medical and oral examinations must present themselves at the nearest hospital, at their own expense. In some cases, candidates are required to travel 200 or more miles to reach a hospital where the examining board is meeting.

Each candidate receives a careful medical examination to determine whether he is physically fit to perform the duties of a patrolman. The medical examination given each candidate includes: X-ray of the chest; urinalysis, chemical and microscopic; blood examinations: red cell count, white cell count, differential count, hemoglobin test; and Wassermann or Kahn test.

Because the injury and disease experience of Border Patrol officers shows extremely high frequency and severity rates, very rigid physical requirements are exacted of all candidates, both in their interest and that of the

Government. Medical authorities agree that the strenuous duties of the position, combined with frequent exposure to bad weather and irregularity of meals and sleep periods, are responsible for the high frequency rate of illness among border patrolmen.

The oral examination, which is given at the time of the medical examination, is for the purpose of weighing elements of fitness for the position other than those which can be determined by written tests. Applicants who are shown to be unsuitable by this examination or by the medical examination are eliminated from the register and are ineligible for appointment.

Character Investigation

Candidates who pass the written examination and are found qualified in the oral and physical examinations are investigated to determine their honesty, integrity, and general character. The investigation is extremely thorough and covers the applicant's entire history. If any facts are developed which would make his employment as a member of a law-enforcement agency inadvisable, his name is eliminated from the register.

Applications

Examinations for the position of border patrolman are not held at regularly stated intervals but only when additional eligibles are needed. Announcements of the examinations are posted on bulletin boards in post offices and other Federal buildings, and are usually published in the press. Interested persons who believe they can meet the physical and other requirements of the position will be notified as soon as an examination is announced if they will submit their names to the Chief Supervisor of Border Patrol, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. Applications to take the examinations must be filed with the Civil Service Commission.

TRAINING

NEW appointees are required to serve a probationary period of 1 year, partly in school and partly in the field. First, the appointee spends from 1 to 3 months at the Border Patrol Training School at El Paso, Texas, where he receives instruction in the following subjects: immigration and citizenship laws, Service procedure and border patrol methods, elementary criminal law and court procedure, investigations, preparation of reports, Spanish or French, use of firearms, fingerprinting, radio telegraphy,

sign cutting, jiu jitsu and physical culture, first-aid, practical mechanics (care and use of equipment).

Appointees in the training school also attend lectures given by leaders of the Border Patrol and of other law-enforcement agencies. These lectures deal with a variety of subjects, some of which relate to a patrolman's conduct and obligations and the qualifications he must show for advancement in the Service.

Following the training school course, the appointee is assigned to a sub-district in the field where he completes his probationary period. This second phase of his training is devoted to work under the supervision of seasoned patrol officers for the purpose of developing him into an efficient and self-reliant officer, and ascertaining whether or not he is proper material for retention in the Service.

The appointee's field work includes training at ports of entry, actual investigations with seasoned investigators; training in the identification bureau, repair shop, radio communications division, target range, and other activities related to the duties of a patrolman.

Progress Requirements

To determine to what extent the new appointee profits by the rigorous course of training he receives, he is given written and oral examinations by examining boards twice during the probationary period, and is rated as to conduct and efficiency four times during the period. Inasmuch as a high standard of conduct is exacted from each appointee after entering the Service, discipline is necessarily strict and close scrutiny is made of the conduct and capacity of each new appointee.

The appointee also receives special examinations in Spanish or French, depending on whether he is to be assigned to the southern border or to the northeastern border, and is required to show a working knowledge of either language in order to qualify for permanent appointment in the Service.¹ Appointees who fail to pass the language examinations or to maintain passing grades in other subjects given during the probationary period are separated from the Service.

Regular Training

The training of a border patrolman does not end with his probationary period but continues throughout his association with the Service. Classes

¹ It is estimated that 90% of a patrolman's contacts on the southern border are with Spanish-speaking persons. Obviously, the value of his service is limited if he does not have a working knowledge of the language.

are held periodically based on statutes and lectures on immigration, naturalization, and Chinese exclusion laws. Quizzes on laws and procedure, prepared by district supervisory officers, are circulated throughout each district at regular intervals, and all patrol inspectors are required to submit answers. In addition, patrol inspectors attend lectures and demonstrations by specialists in the various phases of a patrolman's work, such as self-defense, radio, the use of patrol equipment, and methods of operation.

A firearms training program is conducted for all officers under the direction of competent instructors. Officers are required to report at the range at least every 3 months and qualify in revolver marksmanship tests. Immigration Border Patrol pistol teams compete in matches of national importance and are among the best in the country.

SALARY AND PROMOTION

POSITIONS in the Immigration Border Patrol field service come under the following civil service classifications, which have been determined administratively with the cooperation of the Civil Service Commission:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Salary range per annum</i>
Immigration patrol inspector	CAF-5	\$2,000-\$2,600
Senior patrol inspector	CAF-6	2,300- 2,900
District patrol investigator	CAF-7	2,600- 3,200
Assistant chief patrol inspector, class 2	CAF-7	2,600- 3,200
Assistant chief patrol inspector, class 1	CAF-8	2,900- 3,500
Chief patrol inspector, class 2	CAF-10	3,500- 4,100
Chief patrol inspector, class 1	CAF-11	3,800- 4,600
District supervisor of Border Patrol	CAF-11 or CAF-12	3,800- 5,400

Patrol inspectors are appointed at \$2,000 per annum. When appointed they must report at their own expense at their first duty station, which is usually the Border Patrol Training School at El Paso, Texas.

Promotions in the Border Patrol are based strictly on merit. The qualifications of an aspirant for a supervisory position are determined by competitive examinations which are held periodically. Registers of eligible candidates are established on the basis of such examinations, and appointments are made from the registers in the order of the candidates' standing.

Border patrol officers are given the opportunity to establish their eligibility for appointment to a number of other positions in the Immigration

and Naturalization Service which pay higher salaries. The training and experience an officer receives as a member of the Border Patrol gives him preferred status when selections are made for such positions.

PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Uniforms and Other Equipment

THE Immigration Border Patrol is a uniformed organization, and patrol inspectors are required to provide themselves with official uniforms prescribed by the Service. The cost of uniform equipment is approximately \$80, and may be purchased from any manufacturer, provided it conforms to the specifications.

Firearms, handcuffs, and other equipment are furnished by the Government.

Living Quarters

Barracks for patrolmen are maintained at most of the subdistrict headquarters of the Border Patrol. Officers may rent sleeping accommodations in these barracks at a charge ranging from \$1 to \$4 per month. No other living quarters are provided for officers or their families.

Details and Transfers

When an officer is detailed away from his official station on official business and is absent for more than 24 consecutive hours, he is allowed traveling expenses consisting of his transportation and a per diem allowance which ranges from \$1 to \$5 per day, depending upon the nature of the detail and the extra expense to which he is subjected.

Employees who are ordered transferred from one official station to another in the interest of the Government are allowed transfer expenses for themselves, their wives, and their dependent minor children, and the expenses incident to the shipment of their household effects up to 5,000 pounds.

Leave

Employees of the Border Patrol are entitled to 26 days of annual leave with pay each calendar year. Unused annual leave may be accumulated for succeeding years until it reaches a total not exceeding 60 days.

Sick Leave

In addition to annual leave, employees are entitled to sick leave with pay at the rate of 1½ days per month, provided they furnish satisfactory certificates showing they were incapacitated for duty. Unused sick leave may accumulate until it reaches a total not exceeding 90 days.

Military Leave

Employees of the Border Patrol who are called to active duty with the armed forces of the United States for an indefinite period are given leave without pay and restored to duty upon completion of military service.

Compensation for Injuries

Employees of the Immigration Border Patrol are beneficiaries of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act of September 7, 1916, as amended. This Act provides certain benefits for disability or death resulting from personal injury suffered by employees while in the performance of their official duties. The benefits of the Act include: medical, surgical and hospital service, and necessary transportation to secure them; compensation while disabled for work when loss of pay exceeds 3 days; in case of death, burial expenses (including transportation if the employee dies while away from his home station) and annuities for dependents.

Retirement

An employee of the Border Patrol is subject to the Retirement Act of May 22, 1920, as amended, which applies to all civil service employees of the United States. Three and one-half percent of the salary of the employee is deducted and placed in the retirement fund to his credit. This money may be withdrawn by him if he leaves the Service, and it is payable to his estate if he dies before reaching the retirement age. The duties of immigration patrol officers being hazardous, the retirement age is 62 years.

Annuities are based upon the amount of the employee's credit in the retirement fund and upon his length of service. The minimum life annuity of a border patrolman who has served 30 years is \$1,200 per annum. This annuity increases slightly as the length of service increases and the amount of money to the employee's credit in the retirement fund increases. Any money left in the retirement fund after the death of an annuitant is payable to his estate, unless he elects to receive a slightly increased annuity and

forfeit any sum which may remain to his credit at the time of his death.

The Retirement Act also provides for the retirement of employees who become totally disabled, provided they have at least 5 years' service to their credit. This annuity is likewise based upon the length of service and the amount the employee has to his credit in the retirement fund at the time of his disability.

Roll of Honor

THE following officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service lost their lives in line of duty while guarding the borders of the United States:

- Clarence M. Childress, mounted guard.
At El Paso, Tex., April 16, 1919.
- Charles L. Hopkins, mounted guard.
Near Laredo, Tex., May 8, 1919.
- Alphonse G. Bernard, immigrant inspector.
Near Campo, Calif., July 11, 1920.
- Charles Gardiner, mounted guard.
At El Paso, Tex., October 22, 1922.
- James McCabe, immigrant inspector.
At Detroit, Mich., March 3, 1923.
- James F. Mankin, patrol inspector.
Near Laredo, Tex., September 14, 1924.
- Frank H. Clark, patrol inspector.
Near El Paso, Tex., December 13, 1924.
- Joseph P. Riley, patrol inspector.
Near Eureka, Mont., April 6, 1925.
- Augustin de la Pena, patrol inspector.
At Rio Grande City, Tex., August 2, 1925.
- Ross A. Gardner, patrol inspector.
Near Elsinore, Calif., October 28, 1925.
- William W. McKee, patrol inspector.
Near Tucson, Ariz., April 23, 1926.
- Lon Parker, patrol inspector.
Near Wills ranch, Huachuca Mountains, Ariz., July 25, 1926.
- Thad Pippin, patrol inspector.
Near Pelea, N. Mex., April 21, 1927.
- Franklin P. Wood, patrol inspector.
Near Wyandotte, Mich., December 15, 1927.
- Norman G. Ross, patrol inspector.
Near Kane Springs, Calif., February 10, 1928.

Robert H. Loddell, patrol inspector.
Near Roseau, Minn., December 25, 1928.

Earl A. Roberts, patrol inspector.
Near Algonac, Mich., March 24, 1929.

Benjamin T. Hill, patrol inspector.
At El Paso, Tex., May 30, 1929.

Ivan E. Scotten, patrol inspector.
Near San Elizario, Tex., July 20, 1929.

Miles J. Scannell, senior patrol inspector.
Near Polvo, Tex., September 9, 1929.

William D. McCalib, patrol inspector.
At Alice, Tex., January 7, 1930.

Harry E. Vincent, patrol inspector.
Near Oceanside, Calif., March 25, 1930.

Robert W. Kelsay, senior patrol inspector.
At Laredo, Tex., June 25, 1930.

Laurence E. Doten, immigrant inspector.
At Emo, Ontario, August 24, 1930.

Lawrence C. Jones, immigrant inspector.
At Emo, Ontario, August 24, 1930.

Frank Vidmar, patrol inspector.
At Niagara Falls, N. Y., March 24, 1932.

Charles F. Inch, patrol inspector.
At Detroit, Mich., June 26, 1932.

Philip D. Strobridge, patrol inspector.
At Fallbrook, Calif., March 7, 1933.

Doayne C. Melton, patrol inspector.
At El Paso, Tex., December 7, 1933.

Bert G. Walthall, patrol inspector.
At El Paso, Tex., December 27, 1933.

Charles M. Flachs, immigrant inspector.
At Blaine, Wash., May 28, 1936.

Roy M. Porter, immigrant inspector.
At Everett, Wash., December 28, 1939.

William L. Sills, patrol inspector.
Near McAllen, Tex., January 17, 1940.

George E. Pringle, patrol inspector.
Near Parker, Ariz., December 28, 1940.

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